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**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph that begins on line 4 and ends on line 27 of page 10 with the following:

A1

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a prior art process performed in the shared memory parallel processor computing environment shown in FIG. 1 in which processes are moved from a timer queue 30 to ready queues 31. The timer queue 30 is used to queue processes that request a specified time delay before being placed in one of the ready queues 31 prior to execution by a respective processor 12. When the specified time requested by a process placed in timer queue 30 has expired, a scheduler program (not shown) moves the process from the timer queue 30 to a one of the ready queues 31. The ready queues 31 are arranged by class, in a manner well known in the art. Each process is associated with a specific class and each class has associated rights and priorities which are peculiar to the class and determined by system engineers. The respective ready queues 31 are first-in first-out (FIFO) queues. Processes are added to a rear of the ready queue ~~31-30~~ and are moved to the processor 12 when they have advanced to a front of the ready queue 31. As is well known in the art, processes may be added to the ready queue 31 without first entering the timer queue 30. For the purposes of describing a first aspect of the invention, however, the movement of a process from the timer queue to execution by processor 12 is described.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 21, page 18 and ends on line 5, page 19 with the following:

A2

FIG. 7b is a flow diagram illustrating processes performed by the unlock procedure described above with reference to FIGs. 5b-5d. In step 110, the unlock procedure is called by an executing process. As a first action, the unlock procedure decrements the lock count (step 112). The unlock procedure then

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A2  
examines the lock count to determine whether the lock count is greater than zero (step 114). If the lock count is greater than zero, the process returns in step 114. If the lock count is not greater than zero, the unlock process removes the lock flag in step ~~115-116~~ and stops the lock timer in step 118. The unlock procedure then determines whether the time slice has expired in step 120. If the time slice has expired, the unlock procedure pauses in step 122. Otherwise, the unlock procedure returns in step 124.

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